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SAPC-587
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Contracting Officer 2 May 1956

THROUGH : Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : Hatches

1. I have been somewhat dismayed at the report that there would be little or no interchangeability of hatches between the different aircraft and we would therefore be compelled to procure one hatch of each of possibly four types for each aircraft. This would require procurement of eighty hatches without spares.

2. I discussed this briefly with Kelly Johnson on the telephone today. He assures me that the hatches are machined to be interchangeable. It may be difficult to achieve complete interchangeability but it should be entirely feasible to render a particular set of hatches interchangeable as among the five aircraft of one Detachment. This should obviate the necessity of buying the full number of hatches that would otherwise be required.

3. Kelly also advised me that he and Rod Scott have worked out a hatch design that would do for A-1, A-2 and B. Another hatch would be required for use for the C configuration. The already existing solid hatches will be modified to be used with the meteorological configuration. On this conception it would seem to me that we should procure as follows:

1 A/B Hatch for each Aircraft	Total	20
1 C Hatch for each C configuration	"	5
1 Modified solid hatch for each aircraft	"	20
	Grand Total	45

4. Obviously this would be a much more manageable arrangement. I would appreciate if you would confirm with Rod Scott the combined A-1 plus A-2 plus B hatch if it is feasible and then confirm in due time with Lockheed if the necessary degree of interchangeability can be achieved. Since the solid hatches already exist, I doubt if there is any possibility of economizing on this item.

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

RMB:djm
1-Addressee
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